[29th March 1947

Sub-depot of Chingleput Wholesale Stores at Avadi.

* 130 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Chingleput Wholesale Stores maintain a Sub-depot in Avadi;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that large quantities of sugar were missing;

(*c*) whether any enquiry was held in the matter and how it was disposed off; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the missing sugar bags were written off as wastage and if so, how many bags were so written off?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) There was a branch of the Chingleput Wholesale Co-operative Stores at Avadi. It was subsequently closed down. There is no branch of the stores at Avadi now.

" (*b*) No quantity of sugar was actually missing. Some irregularities in the distribution of sugar however noticed in July 1946 at the Avadi branch of the stores.

" (*c*) Investigation into the irregularities in the distribution of sugar was made by the officers of the Commercial Tax and Co-operative Departments. As investigation showed that the conduct of the godown keeper at Avadi branch was suspicious he was removed from service.

" (*d*) There is no information that any quantity was written off as wastage."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Settlement of labour disputes.

8. *Q.*—SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the general principles followed by Government in regard to the appointment of Adjudicators, Conciliators, and Courts of Enquiries in labour disputes; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any other schemes and plans for prompt and effective settlement of labour dispute and if so, what the schemes and plans are?

A.—(*a*) The general policy is to appoint officers of the status of District and Sessions Judges as Adjudicators, Conciliators and Courts of Enquiries.

(*b*) Yes, Sir. The most important proposals are—

(1) The Industrial Disputes Bill recently passed by the Central Assembly;

(2) The establishment of Wage Boards to fix minimum wages;